

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 19, 22, and 30 have each been amended as discussed in detail below. Each claim more specifically defines the coordinate system utilized in the practice of the invention and requires a bid line connecting a plurality of points where each point is associated with an attribute value for one attribute of a bid of a plurality of bids. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 3-5, 8-9, 11-13, 17, 20-21, 24, and 26 have been amended for antecedent basis purposes. The application now includes claims 1 and 3-30.

Claims 1-30 were rejected as being obvious over the disclosed prior art (applicant's specification, pp. 1-7 and Fig. 1 and 2) in view of Jones, Gerald Everett, "How to Lie with Charts", iUniverse, February 1, 2000, pp. 61-67, 70-72, 85-87, 170, 175, 258 and 262). This rejection is traversed.

The undersigned has carefully reviewed the Examiner's remarks on pages 10 and 11 of the last office action, as well as pages 1-7 and Figures 1 and 2 of the present application, and Jones, Gerald Everett "How to Lie with Charts", iUniverse. February 1, 2000, pp. 61-67, 70-72, 85-87, 170, 175, 258, and 262. Based on this review there appears to be some confusion and/or ambiguity concerning the language "based on a Cartesian coordinate system" presented originally in the claims (the display is based on but is not a Cartesian coordinate system—contrast Figures 5 and 6 of the patent application with page 170 of the Jones article) , and to highlight differences claim 1 has been amended to remove this ambiguity. The primary invention is essentially a newtwork based purchasing methodology which employs essentially a new coordinate system in a display. Unlike a Cartesian system which has only two axes (usually denoted as x- and y-axis, the present invention teaches a novel coordinate system comprised of a plurality of equidistant parallel axes to present objects (bids) with a plurality of dimensions (attributes) in a single 2-dimensional space (display) with an easily understood view. The invention also teaches the application of this novel coordinate system to a procurement (RFQ) system.

Note for example, in Figure 5, bids 1-3 (a plurality of bids) each have a plurality of different attributes (A1-A4) where there is a point which reflects an attribute value for one attribute of one bid (Figure 5 shows points for each attribute value for each bid, and shows the attributes to be on a plurality of equidistant, parallel axes. In sharp contrast, page 170 of Jones (as well as other locations in Jones) merely shows the units going up or down on a monthly basis (a Cartesian coordinate system). In Jones, there are not a plurality of attributes of a single bids or a plurality of bids each having a plurality of attributes with different values for each attribute.

The invention overcomes the difficulty ordinary human beings have with visually understanding and comparing the characteristics of objects in 3 or more dimensions (attributes) displayed in a Cartesian coordinate system.

As will be recognized, neither the "Disclosed Prior Art" nor Jones, show or suggest a coordinate system as shown in the application or as is now more specifically set forth in the independent claims whereby a plurality of bids, each with a plurality of attributes are displayed using a coordinate system with equidistant parallel axes, and where a bid line connects each of the attribute values of each of the attributes of each of the bids. Jones, in sharp contrast, shows only the fluctuation in units over time. All of the other features in the dependent claims, including the display of information, tagging and untagging of lines, etc., are also new and unobvious over the proposed combination.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1, and 3 - 30 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: mike@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

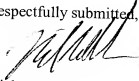
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If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account 50-0510 (IBM-Yorktown).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Whitham", is written over a faint, circular embossed seal.

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